

Mr. Palombi. We actually created, with Michele, the NGO the Ambassador was referring us for.

President Bush. Oh, that's good. Thank you.

Mr. Palombi. Yes. So basically, I created the largest blogging platform in Italy.

President Bush. Really?

Mr. Palombi. Yes, yes, yes. And then I sold it to one of the largest media company in Italy.

President Bush. Well, congratulations.

[*Mr. Palombi made brief remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Mr. Palombi. So what we did was basically introduce our friends who have achieved something in Italy too. We call them first generation entrepreneurs, because we think that the best role model will be someone who started from zero, who doesn't have his parents' money behind, and he really started from scratch, he risked. And we chose these guys, and we had these video chats on the Internet, which we—which are now there. And it's one of the best, probably, entrepreneurship material that you have in Italy right now. It's funny because right now, talking to people who have watched this video chats, they really are motivated by what they see. And this is amazing because you can change things by showing them that someone like them did it.

President Bush. Absolutely. That's good. Thanks, Marco.

Mr. Palombi. Sure.

President Bush. You ready?

Micol Macellari. Yes, I'm ready. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Micol.

Ms. Macellari. I'm Micol, yes.

President Bush. Yes, thank you.

[*Ms. Macellari made brief remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Ms. Macellari. I really think—I strongly believe that in Italy, we have everything we need to make a success and to turn a good scientific project in business and bring greatest scientific idea to the market. We have a strong example of entrepreneurs that did so. So on our own, we can follow—

President Bush. Absolutely.

Ms. Macellari —his example. And we can represent, as the first people who've gone there, a good example for all the other students for the future years.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Villa Aurelia at the American Academy. In his remarks, he referred to philanthropist Mercedes T. Bass; and Mayor Letizia Moratti of Milan. Ambassador Spogli referred to Luciano Martucci, president and chief executive officer, IBM Italy. Participating in the discussion were U.S. Ambassador to Italy Ronald P. Spogli; 2007 BEST program participants Abramo Barbaresi, Elisabetta Capezio, Valentina Coccoli, Micol Macellari, and Emanuele Orgiu; 2008 BEST program participants Francesco Cattaneo, Chiara Giovenzana, and Michela Piacenti; and BEST program participant mentors Michele Appendino and Marco Palombi.

Proclamation 8270—Father's Day, 2008

June 12, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Father's Day, we honor our Nation's fathers for the unconditional love they give to their children and for their selfless dedication to the well-being of their families.

Fathers play a unique and irreplaceable part in the lives of their children and pass along values that help children grow into responsible adults. By providing their sons and daughters with a positive example, fathers help give their children the necessary foundation they need to make wise decisions throughout their lives. Fathers strive to inspire their children to lead lives of integrity, honor, and purpose, and they pray for wisdom and the strength to give their children the love and support they need to achieve their dreams.

All Americans are thankful for the extraordinary efforts of our Nation's fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, and guardians. Their devotion and encouragement as mentors, providers, and role models help strengthen their families and our country. We are especially grateful for the fathers who serve in

our Nation's Armed Forces. These dedicated fathers protect liberty so that all children can have a more promising future. We pray for the safe return of all those serving overseas, and we thank the fathers who support sons and daughters who are defending our freedom around the globe.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 15, 2008, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express their appreciation to all fathers for their many contributions to our Nation's children. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:08 a.m., June 16, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy in Rome

June 12, 2008

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Good evening to all of you, and welcome to our American guests. And of course, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to President Bush, who is a friend—a personal friend of mine and also a great friend of Italy's. I also wish to thank him because Rome has the very great privilege of being the European capital that President Bush has visited more than any other capital in Europe. If I'm not mistaken, this is the sixth time that he's here

in Rome. And we are certainly delighted to have always seen that he is an ally who has always helped our country have strong relations with the United States. And I must say that this has never been the case.

I also wish to thank him for all the efforts which he has undertaken during his administration in order to safeguard democracy and freedom. We have been the first Government to support one of his initiatives within the U.N., i.e. the Community of Democracies, which aims at spreading democracy throughout the world. We are both fully convinced that it is only through a real democracy that we can have true freedom. And it is only through freedom that individuals can tap their potentials fully, and this is how we can all help our families overcome any poverty. And obviously, this is how peoples can overcome poverty and, therefore, become evermore prosperous. And this is what we need to aim for in order to establish long-lasting peace throughout the world. This, in fact, is one of the issues that we have worked on and which we continue to pursue in the future.

We've discussed many issues this afternoon, and we've also had the opportunity to discuss two programs—two initiatives, which I think have commonalities. The university for liberal thinking, we think—or are thinking of establishing one of these universities here in Italy in fact. And I had the opportunity to show President Bush some of these photographs which I already have. And President Bush is thinking of doing something very similar in Texas, and therefore, we've decided that we'll perhaps have a professor exchange program. And obviously, I've also invited President Bush to come to act as visiting professor, and I've already told him that many of our colleagues, Prime Ministers and heads of states, in fact, have okayed that as well.

I know that you'll all have questions. You obviously are curious about what we've discussed, and that's very legitimate. We've gone over the international situation, and we've also reported some of the decisions taken by our Government with regard to our presence in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Lebanon and also our position vis-a-vis in some international developments. And of course, Iran